THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION Magazine.

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Original Papers.

THE EMIGRANTS.

No. II.

Since the appearance of our first paper on the subject of Emigration, we have been gratified by the receipt of letters from three of the boys, giving accounts of their safe arrival in Australia. One of these is from the youth whose melancholy career, when in this country, we then took occasion to notice; and another is from a boy, younger than he, who accompanied him in the same vessel. From these letters it is pleasing to see, that neither the associations connected with a long and protracted passage, nor the new scenes of a strange land, have tended in the least to diminish the gratitude they formerly expressed for the kindness bestowed by their benefactors. As to the propriety of the course they have adopted, their minds remain unchanged. They express no regret at having emigrated—no desire to return to their own country. They still regard those who sent them out as their kindest friends, and the means of emigration afforded them as a boon which, even when in prospect, they did not too highly prize. A few days after their arrival, they both obtained employment, and, under the roofs of their employers, they now find comfortable homes. Even the youngest boy not only thinks of securing a sufficiency for himself, but he expects in a short time to send home a part of his earnings for the support of his mother, whom he left behind. Of the others who accompanied them, no intelligence has yet been received, except that they are all in regular employment; but, if we may judge from the change which took place in their characters during their attendance at school, it may be hoped that equally favourable tidings will shortly be received from them. We

now present our readers with brief accounts of two of them, the materials for which have been chiefly supplied by the masters under whose care they were placed. The first of these two, Charles F——, was brought up in one of the most wicked neighbourhoods of Westminster. When twelve years of age, he was left without father or mother. With the exception of one brother, all the other members of the family had been disposed of by transportation or imprisonment, and as his brother could scarcely support himself, poor Charles was left to obtain a living as he best could. But the plans he adopted were precarious, and none of them likely to raise him in character or respectability. He procured an old fiddle, on which he learned to play a few tunes, in such a way as to render his services acceptable to the drunken companies with whom he found it needful to associate. By such means he subsisted for two years, fiddling at night, stealing articles from shop-doors during the day, in the company of a band of youths who had no other means of living than by stealing, gambling, or passing counterfeit coin. Not feeling satisfied, however, with these varied engagements, he often envied the boys he saw coming from the Juvenile Refuge, tidy, healthy, and cheerful, and many of whom he had known when, like himself, they were the pests of the neighbourhood. He often wondered if he could get into the Refuge, and began to make inquiry, as he said, "on the sly." He ascertained that he must be under fourteen years of age, and, from want of protection, likely to go astray. On mentioning his desire to his brother, he was told that it was useless for him to try, as he had a bad character. In reply, he said, he thought that he had just such a character as was necessary; "for," said he, "I am going to ruin as fast as I can. I'll go and tell the master so, and see if he wont take me in." On his being admitted, the master requested him to give up the fiddle, which he willingly did, saying, he had no wish ever to make use of it again. He was now taught to work about the premises, and, after a few weeks' training, he became a faithful and industrious lad. In his education he made such progress, that, when he left the Refuge, he could write a fair hand, and had advanced in arithmetic as far as the rule of Practice. He was at length placed in a situation of trust, the duties of which he fulfilled with the greatest diligence. From his mild disposition and consistency of character, he exercised a most favourable influence over the other boys, all of whom still hold him in affectionate remembrance. May he so prosper in Australia, and increase in influence, as to prove a blessing to those among whom his lot may in future be cast!

The other case, which we shall briefly mention, was one of extreme destitution. While the master of one of the Westminster Schools was returning one evening from a Ragged School Meeting, his attention was arrested by the wretched appearance of a boy in the neighbourhood of

St. Giles's, wandering about, apparently without home or friends. Unwilling to leave the miserable creature in such a condition, he took him to the school, stripped him of his filthy rags, which consisted of an old tattered coat and part of a pair of trowsers, and these in a complete mass of vermin, by which his body had become in such a state as can be more easily imagined than described. He was thoroughly washed, and supplied with clean clothing; when this was being done, he burst into tears, and turning round, kissed the hand of his benefactor, and expressed the deep gratitude he felt for the kindness so unexpectedly shown him. His master provided him with food and lodging, along with some other youths he had gathered from the streets in a similar state of destitution. On being questioned, he explained the cause of his misfortunes with great readiness, in a long and touching narrative, but which afterwards proved to be untrue. It was a stereotyped statement which he had prepared for daily use, when pursuing his vocation as a street beggar, and which, no doubt, came more readily to his mind than the true state of the case, which he had scarcely ever told. So greatly was he ashamed of his conduct when his master discovered the falsehood, that he made his escape from the school, and was neither seen nor heard of for upwards of a fortnight. He was again found, and brought back in nearly as bad a condition as at first. He then gave a true version of his history, from which it appeared, that his father was dead, that he lived with his grandfather, along with his mother and a little sister. He had wrought with his grandfather until enticed away by some profligate characters in the neighbourhood. On his return, he was treated so cruelly that he again left them, and went in search of employment. Being unsuccessful, he was obliged to sell his clothes, and then resort to begging, selling matches, songs, etc. His master found out his grandfather, who corroborated the boy's second statement, but refused even to come and see him, or allow him to cross his threshold. Surprised at the kindness and forbearance of his master, after he had shown him so much ingratitude—deeply penitent for his past misconduct, and especially for the falsehoods contained in his first statement, he resolved to lead a new life, and by industry and perseverance to redeem his character, and to raise himself, if possible, from his degraded condition. The state of his mind at this time may be best gathered from the following letter, which he wrote to his little sister on hearing of his mother's death :—

"My Dear Sister,—I hope you are quite well, and I am exceedingly sorry to hear by Mr. N—— that my poor dear mother is dead, and I can never forgive myself for not writing to her; I fear, my dear Anne, my conduct was the cause of her death; we shall never see her again on earth, but I hope we shall see her in heaven. I hope you are a good girl to my grandfather, and ask them if they will forgive me, as I have

left off all my bad habits, and will be a good boy for the future; I hope you are getting on with your learning, as I have lost nearly the whole of mine since I have been away, but I am making up for it now; Mr. N. is very kind to me, and says I shall never want a friend while he lives if I am a good boy, and he is in hopes of getting me a place; I do hope that my grandfather and grandmother will forgive me, for I do really intend to lead a different life for the future; I hope you have learned to write; if you can, write a few lines to me, and if you cannot, do beg o grandfather to do it, and forgive me.

"I am, my dear sister, your affectionate brother, E. W. S——."

The promises made in this letter were most faithfully kept during the whole period of his attendance at school. His untiring perseverance was repaid by a rapid improvement in his education, rarely to be met with among boys of his class. His master says, "He went through Reduction, Compound Interest, and also Mensuration—could write a good hand, both plain and engrossing (the latter he wished to practise, with a view of getting employment in a solicitor's office!) He had also a good taste for drawing; in fact, I don't know of anything he could not accomplish providing he set his mind to it." How great must be the importance of turning such a mind into the right channel, and securing its energies for the benefit of society, instead of leaving it a prey to evil passions and depraved habits, encouraging others in the commission of crime, and becoming a fruitful source of every species of wickedness. On his being accepted as an emigrant, his gratitude and joy were unbounded. A short time before he embarked, he said, "Now, if ever I should be possessed of a farm, it shall be called 'Lord Ashley's Farm.' I shall never forget the Ragged Schools, for if it had not been for this Ragged School, instead of going to Australia with a good character, I would have been sent to some other colony loaded with chains."

Such had been the fate of many of those youths with whom he formerly associated, and he had too much reason to fear that, had he not been speedily rescued from a life of vagrancy, his career would have ended in a similar manner. Let us suppose that such had been the case—that he had been allowed to wander the streets for a few years longer, until, after repeated imprisonments, he was transported. The expense of imprisonment and transportation would have been at least from £150 to £200, while in the present instance he has been educated, provided with an outfit, and sent as a free emigrant to Australia, full of gratitude and hope, for a sum not exceeding £30. We leave these facts to speak for themselves.

THE UTILITY OF THE RAGGED SCHOOLS.

A TRUE NARRATIVE.—BY A RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHER.

A SIMPLE fact, if told simply and intelligibly, will generally go farther in producing conviction upon a rational mind, than all the arguments derived from theory. It is, therefore, that I beg to relate the following circumstance in connexion with Ragged Schools, which struck me much at the time, and may perhaps be a useful and encouraging lesson to many of my fellow-labourers.

In the summer of 1846, I paid a visit to my native town, and, as may be easily supposed of one who had left the freshness of the country for the close confinement of a house of business in London, I was more than usually anxious to enjoy once again the haunts of my boyhood. In one of my rambles, I chanced to meet a poor lad, with whom I entered into conversation. Greatly to my delight, I discovered that he was not only intelligent, but that he had given his heart to God, that he had early sought the Lord, and had been found of Him, the result of a Sunday School education, where, to use his own expression, "he had learned more that was good than anywhere else besides." He showed an evident satisfaction in finding in a stranger one who loved the same GOD, and trusted in the same Saviour. From him I learned the site of the Ragged School, of which I had heard before, and on Sunday morning I set out in order to pay it a visit. I might perhaps meet my young friend, and profitably employ a little time with him; and, at all events, it was likely I might derive some useful hints from the manner in which the school was conducted. Thither, therefore, I bent my way, and so graphic had been the boy's description, that I had little trouble in finding the object of my search, and a fitting place it was for the site of a Ragged School. Three sides of it were occupied by the miserable abodes of a poor and dense population, from the midst of which loomed out—dark and dreary—the gaol, that natural associate of wretchedness, while the remaining side opened upon the green meadows—the river sparkling in the sunlight—the gentle hills—the wide forest, here deep in shadow, and there all brightness, as the trees tossed to and fro their branches, like so many things of life, under the influence of the breeze.

The school had not commenced, and the Town Missionary, who acted as superintendent, invited me to visit the abodes of the absent children, a few only having as yet arrived. In this manner we occupied about twenty minutes; and, although I was a native of the town, and thought, from having spent my boyhood there, I must needs know every nook and corner of it, yet the result proved how much I had been mistaken. Numerous were the courts and alleys behind the houses that I never dreamt of, and all overflowing with an increasing population, trained up, if training it can be called, in vice and ignorance. But this is not the first time I have had occasion to observe, how far even those are who are best acquainted with such scenes, from knowing the whole extent of wretchedness that prevails in towns and cities.

On our return to the school, we found it fully occupied, the teachers and scholars being at work in their respective classes. As I was a visitor from London, the Town Missionary urged upon me the duty of addressing the children, an office which I undertook with considerable reluctance. Taking for my subject, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," I ventured upon a brief address, and in the course of it, as an encouragement both to the children and the teachers, I related a little story—a true story—for it had occurred in a Ragged School with which I had, and still have, the privilege of being connected.

A little girl, a mere child, had been missing from the school for several days, and a week having elapsed, the governess felt it would be right to inquire into the cause of absence. Was she ill and in need of assistance?—had she relapsed into neglect and evil ways?—or had she been surprised by sudden death?—No; none of these things had occurred, though they seemed to comprise all reasonable probabilities. The governess found the poor little creature seated at the bedside of her sick father, upon whom she was attending with all the care of a woman, and in the zeal of her young and innocent heart she had actually during the week taught him his alphabet, and even to put two letters together—the whole stock in fact of her own knowledge. Much to my surprise as I went on with this simple anecdote, I observed in one corner of the room a plainly dressed man, (a teacher,) with tears rolling down his hard furrowed cheeks. The time of course admitted of no questions, but on leaving the school-room my first thought was to ask the Missionary the cause of a grief so much to all appearance beyond the occasion. His reply was—the little tale touched a tender chord; that man had at one time been the plague and terror of the neighbourhood, he was so utterly ignorant that he did not know his letters. Soon after the establishment of the Ragged School, his little girl had been admitted and taught to read; she was so delighted by her new knowledge, that she would not rest until she had communicated it to her father. Great, however, as was her influence over him—greater than that of any one else—it took her some time to effect this. Baffled once, and again, she still persisted. At last she succeeded in exciting his curiosity. He grew by degrees interested in what she told him. He submitted to be taught by his child as she sat upon his knee, and the good seed thus sown quickly ripened into fruit. Poor as he was, he laid out sixpence in the purchase of a second-hand Testament; he read it; the Spirit opened the eyes of his understanding, and the change in the whole man was complete. The idle one became industrious, the blasphemous became pious, the rough became gentle, and the wretched became happy. In gratitude for the advantages he had thus acquired, he undertook to impart to others what he had found so beneficial to himself; and was then, and I trust is now, one of the most efficient teachers in the Ragged School.—

"Despise not the day of small things."

Plans and Progress.

HINTS TO PARTIES THINKING ABOUT ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE OUTCAST AND DESTITUTE.*

1. Let the thing be set about earnestly and speedily.
2. Let all persons subscribing 10*s.* 6*d.* yearly be Members of the Association, and eligible to be Directors.
3. Let the Schools be large and airy, with play-ground, if possible, beside them.
4. Let all the furnishings be of the simplest kind. The desks, tables, and forms, all as strong as possible. A large supply of small stools is absolutely necessary, if net-making is to be carried on.

The desks should be flat, to be used either as writing or dining-tables.

5. Let young, active, energetic, and pious teachers be engaged, and let all the engagements be during pleasure; either party desiring a change to give three months' notice.
6. Let the male and female superintendents engage all the subordinates required for their respective departments, and be responsible for their good conduct.
7. Let boys be employed at that sort of work which is most profitable, requiring the greatest amount of bodily activity of which they are capable, and the smallest amount of superintendence.
8. Let the habit of industry and earnest application be more considered than the teaching of any one particular trade.
9. Let the girls be taught plain needlework and knitting, and above all neat mending. Let them be trained to make "the old clothes look nearly as well as the new."
10. Do not let the working time exceed five hours daily,† or thirty hours each week.
11. If boys and girls be at one school, let the elder girls perform all the school cleaning work, assist in cooking, preparing vegetables, etc.
12. *Let ordinary school business never be stopped or interrupted by the entrance of visitors.*
13. Let a time-table, showing the different occupations during the day, be hung up in the school, and let the business of the school proceed as strictly conformable thereto as possible.
14. Let the daily roll be called twice a day, daily attendance marked, and absentees inquired after, and accounted for.
15. Let male superintendent keep all school accounts, with the exception of female superintendent's daily roll, and let him exhibit a monthly statement of attendance and expenditure.
16. Let female superintendent have the sole charge of the cooking depart-

* These suggestions have been kindly supplied by a gentleman who has had great experience in the management of Industrial Schools. To those who wish to commence such an undertaking they will prove highly useful, but the arrangements must often vary according to circumstances.—[Ed.]

† The time of work in the Westminster Refuge is from two o'clock till five, P.M.—[Ed.]

ment, giving a weekly account of expenditure to male superintendent, to enable him to prepare his monthly statement.

17. Let children be allowed three meals daily. The food to be simple, nourishing, and wholesome. The dinner to be varied two or three times weekly.

18. Let all the children be furnished with a Sunday suit. No new clothing to be given to be carried to the homes of the children. (Collecting bags for old or cast-off clothing may be sent round among parties having families or young children.)

19. Let no talking be allowed at work or lessons. Order and regularity to be strictly observed. Singing may be encouraged when children are at work.

20. Let frequent washing of children be practised. Let girls have their hair kept short and clean; be required to wash their hands and face, and dress their hair, after breakfast and dinner.

21. Let intellectual instruction consist of reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. The reading should be distinct and slow, and the scholars made to comprehend the full meaning of every passage read. Writing and arithmetic should be taught from specimens and questions on the large black board and slates. Writing in copy-books may be done once a week.

22. Let the Bible be read daily by the more advanced pupils, or by the teacher, in hearing of the whole school, but not used as a common lesson book.

23. Let the school be opened and dismissed daily by prayer and praise.

24. Let the teachers keep a punishment book, in which to enter every offence committed, and the nature and amount of punishment inflicted.

25. Let punishment by whipping be resorted to only when every other means of punishing fails. *Let the teacher be deemed incompetent who cannot govern his school without the frequent use of the rod.*

26. Let honesty, diligence, cleanliness, and order, be ever inculcated and enforced. Let there be in the school a deposit box for found articles, and let the children be required to deposit in this box, having a slip on the lid, every article, even needles and pins, found in the school or in the streets.

27. Let the children attend on Sunday as on other days, and accompany the teacher to the place of worship he desires to frequent. Let the ordinary teachers be assisted on Sunday evenings by lay or clerical assistants.

28. Let there be occasional social meetings at the school, to which the parents and relations of the children be invited to attend; and let a few friends be invited to address the meeting on suitable subjects. Let the time of intellectual instruction not exceed three or four hours daily.

29. Let there be regular and systematic exercising out of doors, and let all the sports and exercises be superintended by the teacher or his assistants.

30. Let not anyone suppose that the Ragged School can ever supersede the Industrial. The former is a temporary expedient, furnishing, at the best, a very limited amount of useful education. The latter is a permanent arrangement, affording, by means of food or industry, a large amount of useful instruction to the children of the destitute, who, without the food, can never fully appreciate the value of the instruction.

JAMES MACNAMARA AND HIS STEPFATHERS.

Among the miscellaneous crowd of criminals who appeared at the late Criminal Court, held at Aberdeen, the smallest in stature, though not the youngest in crime, was our old acquaintance, James Macnamara. He is a rare specimen of the genus *juvenile delinquent*, having commenced his career as a juvenile vagrant. His mother took to herself, as a second husband, a country hawker of the name of Douglas, and by following his stepfather in the course of his profession, James early acquired a wandering habit, which soon became to him a second nature. To him all places are nearly alike, and his only reason for going to one place rather than another has been because the people were kind to him. When seven years of age, he found it difficult or inconvenient to follow his father, and having acquired a thorough knowledge of the country, he wandered about alone. Some had pity on the poor neglected child, and kindly supplied his wants, but no one offered him a permanent abode, or thought of giving him any instruction. So he grew up perfectly independent, and thoroughly ignorant.

James learned to maintain himself by his own shifts, but his shifts were not always deemed honest, and when eight years of age, he fell into the hands of the police, accused of theft. The judge was sadly puzzled how to deal with this infant criminal—who did not know where his mother and stepfather were—who had none to care for him. He seemed a broken reed floating on the ocean of life, driven hither and thither by the restless tide, without object, and without direction. His confession, however, was held to be a plea of guilty, and the magistrate sent him a few days to prison, and then obtained his admission to the House of Refuge. Though kindly treated in these asylums, the little wanderer could not endure confinement, and soon deserted the Refuge, and returned to his old haunts in the country. This was in the summer of 1845, and in the course of the autumn of that year he was again brought before the magistrate, accused of having stolen an ass. He could give no reason for taking it. It was grazing by the roadside, and he had mounted it, and rode along the road for two or three miles, when he was followed and apprehended. He did not know how far he was to take it, or whether he intended to steal it. It might be an act of theft, or of childish thoughtlessness or folly, but the public prosecutor substantiated his charge, and James was sent to prison for sixty days. During the winter he probably lived with his parents, who generally then lodged in town in that season, and he does not appear to have resumed his wanderings until the end of spring, or beginning of summer. At any rate it was not till July, 1846, that he came again before the judge, accused of house-breaking. He was tried by a jury, convicted, and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. When sent to the general prison at Perth, the authorities were not a little astonished to receive so young a culprit, and transmitted an order to Aberdeen to be informed how so small a criminal should have received so large a punishment. In answer they were informed that James had been wholly neglected, was grossly ignorant, and was scarcely believed to be altogether sound; and it was supposed that the judge who sentenced him had made the imprisonment so long, in the hope that prison-discipline would correct his habits, enlighten his ignorance, and make it clear that he was a responsible agent.

The twelve months' imprisonment wore away, and James was again at liberty—the wide world was before him, but he had not a friend in it. It was a matter of indifference to him whither he went, or whither he was carried. He would have remained at Perth, but the inhabitants of the fair city have not unlimited faith in the reformatory effects of their prison-discipline, and generally desire to send off the liberated criminals as soon as possible, and

James was forwarded to Aberdeen per coach, under charge of the guard. However, he had acquired a liking for the prison, and, in less than a month, he had found his way back to Perth, where the Chaplain of the Aberdeen Jail saw him playing within the outer court of the prison, and was informed by the Governor that he got most of his food in his house, and that he could not induce him to leave the town. Some time after that, the Perth police got hold of him, and again returned him to Aberdeen, where, finding no shelter, he resumed his wanderings on Donside, his favourite district of the country. He said the people there were kind to him, and some of them so far pitied him as to send him to school, gave him the shelter of an outhouse, and an occasional meal. Matters might have gone on in this way for some time, but James one day went with another boy to shoot at small birds with a pistol, and he liked the sport so well, that he wished to have a shot by himself. So, having seen where his friend deposited his pistol, he went and took it, and again appeared in charge of a policeman accused of having stolen it. For this offence he stood before the lords, and afforded the audience as much amusement as pity, by his grotesque appearance and simple manners. He has now been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. When asked his age lately, he said the "Government (Governor) says I am twelve years old." And twelve years of age he probably is, but not more.

And what a life has this young thing led! And what a prospect he has before him! Will the imprisonment he has now to endure strengthen his bodily frame, or elevate his moral or religious feelings? He may be said to have two stepfathers—his mother's husband, and a Christian community; and it is difficult to say which of the two has acted, with most effect, the part of a stepfather—both may be said to have trodden the little stepson under foot. The neglect of the former, and probably some harsh usage, early made him dependent, and the law seems to have no other care for him, except to punish the wrongs he is alleged to commit. We wonder if this simple narrative will not raise up a single friend for this fatherless and friendless child. We believe he is not naturally vicious; he seems alive to kindness; and his returning to Perth, and to the confines of the prison, shows that he would easily become attached to any place where protection was afforded. We have no doubt the lot of many a poor child is as hard as his; and we may be censured for attempting to excite sympathy for individual suffering, where so much general misery is unregarded; but, having become interested in the fate of this outcast one, and being unable to render him any assistance, we have felt impelled to write his little history, in the hope that some one, able and willing, may be induced to become to him, what he so greatly needs, a friend and protector. When the state has performed its part in punishing the offence, we trust that private benevolence will devise some plan for reclaiming the offender.

Now, although we may have appeared only solicitous to excite sympathy for this juvenile delinquent, yet we shall have failed in our main object if we do not awaken reflection in the minds of many as to the mode and effect of his treatment. He seems to have none to care for him. But what his youth and helplessness could not obtain—food, shelter, and instruction—his cunning or knavery did not fail to procure. The cost of his neglect has been at least ten times the amount of order and protection. He might have been fed, trained, and taught in an Industrial School at £4 a year; we have no doubt that his crimes and his punishments cost the country at least £40. If the magistrate had been authorised to send him to the Industrial School, at the expense of his parents or the parish, when he first sent him to prison, he might now have been entering on a course of honest industry; under the direction of our present laws he has only become more matured in crime, and, judging from experience, we do not expect this imprisonment will be more efficacious than the last. Eighteen months' seclusion, with the certificate

of good conduct from the governor of a prison, is not a good qualification nor a good passport to success in the world. Who would admit into his house, or his service, a culprit trained to vice from infancy—a wanderer, who had never had a home but the prison—a waif, who had strayed so long that he was claimed by nobody? We wonder what the feelings of such a creature are when turned out of jail and restored to liberty. *Liberty*, so dear to most, is worth less than nothing to him. His mind has been disciplined to bondage, and when discharged from the inner court of the prison, his only desire seems to be allowed to haunt the outer. We have heard of a boy who had left home for a public school, and who felt the restraint and discipline, though by no means severe, so irksome, that he spent whole days and nights considering by what means he could tear himself from a life which to him was insupportable, and, after months of torture, escaped from the thraldom, and fled to his father's house and his mother's bosom. But our little criminal has no such feelings. There is the whole world for him to roam in, and the wide expanse of heaven to overshadow him, but there is no spot on earth that he can call his own—no parents' arms open to receive him, and no roof that he can demand the shelter of. If he ask charity, he is desired to work; and if he ask employment, it is denied him; so that we see nothing he can do but to put forth his hand and steal. We would not thus vent all the wrongs of a parent, and all the neglect of society, on a helpless child. In correcting his faults, we would seek to amend them. In his confinement we would endeavour to inspire hope, and when the period of imprisonment was past, we would not cast him out again to plunder or to perish. We would require his parents, the parish, or the state, to maintain, instruct, and direct him, till he can maintain, and direct, and care for himself; and until full provision is made for the treatment of juvenile delinquents on some such philanthropic and rational grounds, James Macnamara will never be awanting to fill the criminal dock when our Circuit Courts come round.—*North of Scotland Gazette.*

Literary Notices.

The Sunday School Library. Vol. I. *Addresses to Children.* By Samuel G. Green, B.A. London, B. L. Green.

There is no department of Sabbath School labour so difficult to perform in a proper manner as the closing address to the children. In many of the Ragged Schools the difficulty is greatly increased. So seldom is this work successfully performed, that we have often wished to see the practice discontinued altogether, except in cases where the assistance of competent persons can be regularly obtained. We intend in a future number to call more special attention to this subject. In the meantime, we earnestly recommend every Ragged School teacher and superintendent to procure a copy of the first volume of the Sunday School Library. The addresses are excellent. They are so plain and simple, that even a ragged child can understand them; combined with a solidity by which, while they interest the children, they are sure to instruct them. The prefatory suggestions to teachers and ministers will amply repay an attentive perusal. We regret that, from want of space, we can only find room for a very short extract:—

"The one great requisite for effectively addressing *any* congregation, is sympathy with the audience. The preacher must for the time enter into the very thoughts of his hearers, and divine their hidden emotions. Their minds supply, so to speak, a framework in which he must set the spiritual truths of which he speaks. He must think not in his own accustomed train, but in theirs. He must remember that what is familiar to him, may be abstruse to them. If he would be pathetic, it is to the sources of their feelings that he must appeal, although the well-spring of his own may be far other and deeper. He must seem, in short, to those who hang upon his lips, to give back to them their own conceptions, only refined, elevated, spiritualized; and to waken from the depths of their spirits what was already slumbering there."

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—All who feel an interest in the welfare of their species must rejoice at the formation of the London Ragged Schools, and the amount of good which they have already done; but, useful as these Institutions may be, none who are practically acquainted with the deplorable condition of the children for whom they are intended, will ever think of comparing them in point of efficiency with the Westminster Refuge. Were every Ragged School converted into a Refuge, and every Refuge multiplied twenty-fold, the crime of the metropolis would receive a check which would astonish all men. Even the Refuge, however, supposing that all the improvements alluded to in your April number were carried into effect, will, in my opinion, still come short of what it ought to be, until *dormitories* are provided for the children. I have had the honour to act as Secretary for nearly five years to an Institution of a like kind, entitled the Perth Ladies' House of Refuge for Destitute Girls, where part of the children are sent home at night, and part kept constantly in the house; and have been induced by observation and experience to give a deliberate preference to the latter plan, which I have found to be attended with the best effects. The objections which are commonly urged against it do not appear to me to be possessed of much weight. The leading objection is, that the separation of parent and child, which the system naturally involves, is a violation of the law of nature; but to this it may be answered, that that law has already been virtually violated by the misconduct of the parents. God distributed mankind into families, and gave the parent the control of the child, for the child's benefit; but the appalling fact is, that the parents of this unhappy class of children employ their influence in order to lead them astray. Cases have come within my knowledge where mothers have intoxicated their daughters, or beaten them, in order to get them to steal; and where a father has ruined his own daughter, a girl of twelve years of age. Nor are such abominable doings of rare occurrence. They are merely samples of the ordinary fate awaiting many of the children of our depraved population, and such being the case, the propriety of separating them from their parents, when possible, seems to me to be placed beyond a doubt. But even admitting that this was taking an extreme view of the case, still when we consider the baneful influence of the example set them by their parents, we are compelled to come to the same conclusion. The training which a child requires is twofold, moral and intellectual; and the former, especially in the case of the dangerous classes, is, if possible, the most important of the two, as well as the most difficult to impart aright; inasmuch as we require to bring the influence of example as well as that of precept to bear upon the child. Now the example of the parents is "only evil continually," and when it is remembered that "evil communications *corrupt* good manners," it seems plain that they must have a powerful tendency to *prevent* them being acquired. It is no answer to say that the children are taught the Bible, and thus armed against error. If any man were to permit his son to consort with evil companions because he had taught him the Bible, he would have little reason to be surprised if he became like them. The reason commonly urged in support of the plan of sending the children home is, that they may be the means of benefiting their parents by rehearsing their lessons to them. This is possible, but I am inclined to suspect that an old thief or drunkard is more likely to injure the child than to receive benefit from him. Out of 99 juvenile prisoners in Perth General Prison in December, 1847, only 6 were orphans; while 40 had one parent alive, and 53 had both, at the time when they committed their first offence. I cannot believe that the whole of this 93 fell into criminal habits merely from parental neglect. I believe that were the cases examined into, a very large proportion would be found to have been the victims of parental depravity. With regard to the Perth Refuge, I have much pleasure in stating that the result of its operations have been in the highest degree satisfactory. Many of the girls who have been in situations for years are conducting themselves in the most exemplary manner. One

for example is earning £3, another £3 and clothes, another £4, a fourth £5. 5s., and another had £5. 10s., but was obliged to resign the situation from ill health; while, so far as I have been able to learn, there has only been one case where our efforts to save have been entirely fruitless. I shall be delighted to hear that any school conducted upon the Aberdeen, Edinburgh, or Westminster plan, has turned out an equally large proportion of well-behaved boys or girls.

The only solid objection I can imagine to our plan is, that the expense attending it is necessarily somewhat greater than the Westminster one. In the Edinburgh Ragged School, which is conducted upon the day plan, the estimated cost per head is about £5, while in ours it is £6; but the difference of average may be partly accounted for by the difference of numbers. In Edinburgh there are upwards of 260 upon the roll, while in 1848 we had only 30; but I have little doubt that, if our funds were sufficient to enable us to double or triple our numbers, our average could be brought very nearly as low as theirs. I do not, however, think it desirable that so great an increase should take place. The perfection of the system appears to me, not to collect the children into masses, but to form them into something like large families, where each child could be dealt with individually, while at the same time the influence of numbers could be brought to bear with full effect. Such a plan, however, would not admit of more than 40, or at the utmost 50, being brought under one roof, (unless indeed the staff of officials were to be increased,) and that being the case, it necessarily follows that it must always be a little more expensive than the other. The small additional expense, however, would be more than counterbalanced by the superior efficiency of the system, and the *permanent* benefit it would confer upon the children; and, in proof of this, I may perhaps be allowed to mention the fact, that already the Edinburgh, Dundee, and Westminster Schools have been compelled to act upon our plan to some extent. One thing, at any rate, is quite clear; it is much cheaper to endeavour to prevent crime in the Perth Refuge, than to endeavour to reform criminals in the Perth General Prison; and also the results are much more satisfactory. In Prison, the expense of each criminal to the county, after deducting his earnings, is £22. 11s., and if we add the interest on the cost of the building, it comes to £27. 19s., while in the Refuge, after making the same deductions, it is only £5. 12s. 5d. In the case of the Prison, sixty-seven per cent. of those attempted to be reformed are recommitted, whilst in the case of the Refuge there is only a fractional per centage of cases where no good has been done.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant, H. M.

I may mention that there are three Industrial Schools in Perth, containing about 90 pupils, all conducted upon the separation system.

P.S.—I find I have omitted to notice one very important element in the question, and that is the regularity or irregularity of attendance on the part of the children. In the Perth Refuge we experience the usual difficulty in getting young beggars to settle down to industrial habits, but when the first irksome feeling of restraint is worn off, our difficulty in the way of securing a regular attendance is at an end. Elopements do indeed happen occasionally, but they are of comparatively rare occurrence, and that although the children have ample opportunities of running away, if they are so disposed, being frequently sent on messages through the town. Now this is far from being the case in the ordinary description of Ragged Schools. In them the irregularity of attendance is of the most annoying character, especially during the summer months, which have been well termed the winter of the schools. I have before me a Report of the Aberdeen School of Industry for 1841–42, in which it is mentioned that 128 children were admitted during eight months, but that the number attending did not average one-half of the number admitted; the number retained upon the roll at the end of that period being only 60, with an average attendance of 50. The same difficulty is felt in every other school of a like kind, and when this is taken into account, and when it is further remembered that the average in attendance is not always composed of the same children, it must be quite plain to every one that the number of children getting the full benefit of the school is much more limited than in an institution conducted upon the principle of the Perth Refuge.—H. M.

Perth, May, 1849.

SCHOOLS IN LONDON AND ITS SUBURBS

VISITED BY THE SCHOOL INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR ENDING MAY 1, 1849.

*** *These Schools are under the management of Independent and Local Committees.*

LOCALITY OF SCHOOL.	SUNDAY.			DAILY.				EVENINGS.				Teachers.		Room to Accommodate
	Morn. & Aft.	Even.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Infs.	Total.	When Open.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Vol.	Pd.	
EASTERN DIVISION.														
Foster Street, Bishopsgate	120	200	320	..	..	..	..	. . . .	50	50	100	20	2	200
Dolphin Court, Spitalfields	130	..	130	mixed.		..	160	M. T. Th. F.	mixed.		70	14	4	250
Vine Court, Spitalfields	120	110	230	mixed.			300	M. T. W. Th.	25	28	53	10	6	300
Thrawl Street, Spitalfields	..	183	183	..	..	..	..	T. Th. . . .	68	80	148	13	..	180
King Street, Spitalfields	100	..	100	..	..	..	..	. . . .	..	..	..	10	..	180
Spicer Street, Spitalfields	30	130	160	60	70	100	230	M. T. W. Th. Fr.	25	25	50	13	5	180
Goldsmiths' Row, Hackney Road	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	T. Th. . . .	70	75	145	14	..	..
Twig Folly, Bethnal Green	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	M. T. Th. F.	45	50	95	12	..	70
King Edward Street, Mile End	..	270	270	..	..	..	..	. . . .	..	..	90	40	2	250
North Street, Whitechapel Road	..	43	43	..	..	..	..	W. Th. . . .	18	12	30	9	..	45
Cumberland Place, Whitechapel Road	..	60	60	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	80	..	80	8	..	60
Lomas Buildings, Stepney	36	70	106	..	..	..	..	T. Th. . . .	30	20	50	9	..	80
Cotton Street, Poplar	..	110	110	..	..	..	..	. . . .	..	..	..	22	..	140
Bere Street, Ratcliffe	103	..	103	..	45	..	45	M. T. Th. F.	34	36	70	11	1	60
Darby Street, Rosemary Lane	..	50	50	..	..	..	..	. . . .	..	..	..	5	..	50
CENTRAL AND NORTHERN DIVISION.														
Field Lane, West Smithfield	170	220	390	80	70	..	150	M. T. W. Th. F.	25	20	45	22	2	300
Plumtree Court, Shoe Lane	..	80	80	..	..	..	..	. . . .	40	30	70	12	1	150
Golden Lane, St. Luke's	..	200	200	..	..	130	130	M. T. Th. F.	35	45	80	17	2	300
Turk's Head Yard, Clerkenwell	..	..	..	mixed.			80	. . . .	..	..	..	..	1	60
Lamb and Flag Court, Clerkenwell Green	183	..	183	100	110	50*	260	M. T. Th. .	60	44	104	13	3	250
Vine Street, Liquorpond Street	22	66	88	..	..	..	..	T. . . .	18	20	38	7	..	60
Fox Court, Gray's Inn Lane	25	29	54	..	..	..	..	M. T. Th. F.	29	49	78	7	1	65
Yeates Court, Clare Market	..	40	40	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	65	55	120	1	2	120
Brewers' Court, Great Wild Street	25	106	131	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	40	50	90	12	2	120
King Street, Drury Lane	30	100	130	..	..	..	..	. . . .	..	..	..	9	..	40
Neales Yard, Seven Dials	..	75	75	35	30	..	65	M. T. W. Th. F.	35	40	75	6	2	120
Streatham Street, St. Giles	62	48	110	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	55	44	99	19	3	100
Irish Free School, St. Giles	..	..	..	60	57	86	203	. . . .	..	..	..	..	3	250
Phillips Gardens, New Road	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	. . . .	..	..	70	..	1	80
Little Camden Street, Camden Town	48	55	103	..	..	70	70	M. T. W. Th. F.	60	50	110	9	4	250
Agar Town, St. Pancras Road.	230	70	300	..	..	90	90	M. T. W. Th. F.	50	40	90	20	2	250
Compton Place, Judd Street	30	50	80	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	35	30	65	7	2	80
Coram Place, Little Coram Street	24	..	24	..	..	..	..	T. F. . .	16	24	40	3	..	80
Britannia Street, King's Cross	66	..	66	..	..	..	..	M. T. Th. F.	30	56	86	7	1	150
Elder Walk, Islington	80	..	80	..	..	65	65	M. Th. . .	10	10	20	8	2	80
Brand Street, Holloway	100	30	130	130	110	..	240	. . . .	50	20	70	24	2	..
Phillip Street, Kingsland Road	25	80	105	..	..	..	..	. . . .	..	..	..	7	..	80
Providence Row, Kingsland	..	20	20	..	..	..	..	M. F. . . .	20	18	38	7	1	250
Stoke Newington	..	90	90	..	30	..	30	. . . .	40	..	..	6	2	..
WESTERN DIVISION.														
Westminster Juvenile Refuge and School of Industry, 56, Old Pye Street	110	..	110	70	50	..	120	M. T. W. Th. F.	20	30	50	11	6	300
New Pye Street, Westminster	90	..	90	138	125	..	263	. . . .	..	..	..	12	..	..

WESTERN DIVISION.																
Westminster Juvenile Refuge and School of Industry, 56, Old Pye Street	110	..	110	70	50	..	120	M. T. W. Th. F.	20	30	50	11	6	200
New Pye Street, Westminster	90	..	90	138	125	..	263	. . . . .	..	..	..	13	2	200
Pear Street, Westminster	..	40	40	70	90	..	160	. . . . .	..	..	..	2	1	100
Broadway, Westminster	..	150	150	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	30	30	60	18	1	160
New Tothill Street, Westminster	65	..	65	40	50	..	90	. . . . .	..	..	..	10	1	120
Exeter Buildings, Chelsea	55	..	55	56	55	45	156	M. W. F. . .	30	..	30	7	4	190
Camera Street, Chelsea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	T. Th. F. . .	48	38	86	13	..	120
Temperance Hall, Hammersmith	..	80	80	..	..	..	..	W. F. . . .	53	..	53	18	1	200
Richmond Street, Lisson Grove	..	110	110	..	..	..	..	W. F. . . .	40	60	100	15	..	..
George Street, Lisson Grove	..	238	238	..	..	270	270	M. T. W. Th. F.	40	40	80	24	3	250
Paddington Wharfs	25	70	95	25	30	..	55	. . . . .	35	30	65	7	3	200
Huntsworth Mews, Dorset Square	Now forming.													
Brook Street, New Road	70	170	240	..	..	..	..	T. F. . . .	60	50	110	18	1	200
Union Mews, Wells Street	16	203	219	..	..	..	..	M. T. Th. F. .	60	55	115	13	2	130
Grotto Passage, Marylebone	83	..	83	..	..	100	100	M. T. W. F. .	..	50	50	8	2	100
Grotto Place, Marylebone	30	..	30	90	..	..	90	M. T. W. Th. F. S.	75	..	75	7	3	200
Hindes' Mews, Marylebone Lane	60	20	80	..	..	..	..	T. W. Th. F. .	31	10	41	16	2	120
Edward's Mews, Portman Square	60	..	60	..	..	80	80	M. T. W. Th. F. S.	30	50	80	16	5	150
Gray's Yard, James Street	150	..	150	80	70	150	300	M. T. Th. F. .	40	..	40	16	4	150
Hopkins Street, Golden Square	..	170	170	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	45	60	105	27	2	300
SOUTHERN DIVISION.														
Lambeth	..	285	285	..	..	..	..	M. W. F. . .	100	125	225	24	3	400
Little East Street, Lambeth	..	35	35	..	..	..	..	M. T. F. . .	24	20	44	4	..	40
Jurston Street, Lambeth	..	168	168	..	..	..	..	. . . . .	..	..	..	25	..	300
Grove Lane, New Cut	..	60	60	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	20	30	50	7	2	150
Windmill Street, New Cut	108	..	108	100	65	..	165	. . . . .	45	..	45	1	2	150
Waterloo Road	70	110	180	mixed.		..	60	M. T. W. F. .	15	15	30	16	1	150
Broadwall, Blackfriars	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	30	54	84	..	5	200
Chapel Place, Great Suffolk Street	..	50	50	..	..	..	..	. . . . .	25	..	..	9	..	150
John Street, Mint	..	135	135	..	..	..	..	F.	..	14	14	19	..	250
Mitre Court, Mint Street	..	80	80	mixed.		..	68	M. T. W. . .	40	50	90	9	1	120
Henry Street, Kent Street	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F.	40	..	40	..	1	40
Vineyard, Tooley Street	72	..	72	85	35	..	120	M. W. F. . .	55	..	55	..	2	120
Jacob Street, Dockhead	..	60	60	..	..	..	..	M. T. Th. . .	18	..	18	6	1	90
Deptford, Duncan Yard	60	40	100	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. F	43	30	73	20	2	100
Greenwich, East	60	..	60	..	..	..	..	T. F. . . .	60	60	120	6	..	..
Greenwich, West	50	..	50	..	..	..	..	. . . . .	..	..	..	5	..	..
Blackheath, Queen Street	..	100	100	..	..	..	..	T. Th. . . .	60	50	110	10	..	180
Peckham, High Street	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	M. T. . . .	65	..	65	11	..	200
Camberwell, Nelson Street	..	250	250	..	..	..	..	M. W. F. . .	65	..	65	25	1	280
Clapham, White's Square	..	95	95	..	..	..	..	M. T. W. Th. .	40	12	52	11	..	100
Clapham, Union Street	..	70	70	..	..	..	..	M. W. . . .	24	16	40	9	..	90
Walworth, Crown Square	..	135	135	..	..	..	..	M. W. F. . .	30	40	70	14	..	150
Newington, Francis Street	..	48	48	..	..	..	..	. . . . .	25	..	25	6	1	80

SUMMARY.	Schools	Attendance of Scholars.			Attendance of Teachers.		Room to Accommodate.
		Sunday.	Weekday	Evening.	Voluntary.	Paid.	
Eastern Division	15	1866	735	981	210	20	2045
Central and Northern Division	24	2479	1463	1388	223	39	3235
Western Division	20	2085	1684	1140	259	43	3060
Southern Division	23	1721	413	1315	237	22	3340
Total	82	8190	4296	4824	929	124	11710

Intelligence.

LOMAS BUILDINGS, STEPNEY.

The first Anniversary of this School was held on Tuesday Evening, March 27th, in the School-rooms adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel, Stepney. The Right Hon. Lord Ashley, M.P., in the Chair.

The School has been in operation fourteen months, in one of the lowest neighbourhoods of Stepney. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in carrying it on for want of a sufficient number of teachers. The average number of children in attendance on Sabbath afternoons was forty-four, but during the last three months the number had considerably increased, as the school became more known in the neighbourhood. The rooms are now insufficient to accommodate the numbers who assemble, so that the teachers are frequently obliged to turn away many of those who apply for admission. The effort has not been well sustained by the inhabitants of Stepney, for although the expenditure has been small, there was a balance due to the Treasurer of £1. 18s. 7d.

THRAWL-ST. SCHOOL, SPITALFIELDS.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Spitalfields, on Thursday Evening, March 29th. The Right Hon. Lord Ashley, M.P., in the Chair.

This School is situated in one of the worst parts of Spitalfields, which is chiefly inhabited by a class of persons of the very lowest and most degraded character. It was opened in January, 1848, with an attendance of 59 children and 17 teachers. The numbers have continued to increase, until they have now reached to about 300 children and 30 teachers. Since its formation, about 700 children have been admitted, but such is their migratory character that the average attendance is only 137. When first opened, the school frequently presented a scene of noise and disorder, which has happily been displaced by docility and attention. Several most pleasing cases of reformation of character have occurred among the most unruly children during the year. About fifty Bibles have been sold to the children at 6d. each, which, in almost every instance, are most carefully preserved and highly valued. The Committee are anxious to establish a Day School, but at present they are prevented, by a deficiency of funds, from venturing upon a further extension of their efforts, there being a balance due to the Treasurer of £14. 4s.

CAMDEN TOWN RAGGED SCHOOL.

The first Public Meeting on behalf of the above School was held on Tuesday, April 17th, at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover Square. The attendance was numerous and highly respectable. The Right Hon. Lord Ashley occupied the Chair. The school was opened in July, 1848, since which time 170 boys had been admitted, 80 of whom had left for situations; 90 remained on the books, and 60 or 70 were in weekly attendance; 70 or 80 more had sought admission, but had been necessarily, though reluctantly, refused for want of room. A Sunday School was opened in October last, when 50 boys and 40 girls assembled. An Infant School had also been opened on the same premises, each child paying 2d. per week; 90 had been admitted, and the average attendance was 60. The Treasurer's account showed a balance in hand of £5. 7s. 10d., but the liabilities of the Committee were £74. 1s. 2d.

The Meeting was addressed by the Earl of Waldegrave, the Hon. Captain Maude, R.A., the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Rev. Thomas Mortimer, B.D., Henry Parnell, Esq., W. J. Maxwell, Esq., D. W. Owen, Esq., and Mr. Gent.

BREWERS' COURT RAGGED SCHOOL.

The first Annual Meeting on behalf of this School was held on Tuesday, April 24th, in the Music Hall, Store Street. The Right Hon. the Earl Ducie in the Chair.

The noble Chairman said, he had great pleasure in attending a meeting in behalf of the Ragged School, for he felt sure that it was impossible fully to appreciate the value of the system which had called it into existence. A perusal of the Report would suffice to convince them of the destitute condition of the district in which the school was placed, and of the necessity for increased exer-

tions, on the part of the wealthier classes of the district, to extend its beneficial influence. The locality of the school was, he believed, in the midst of three of the City Mission districts. In one of these there were 700 visitable families, congregated in the smallest possible number of houses, and 350 of them were without a copy of the Bible. Out of 1,500 adult inhabitants in the district, 1,150 attended no place of worship whatever. There were 640 children of an age to go to school, of whom not more than 150 attended any place of education; there were, therefore, nearly 600 children to whom such institutions as Ragged Schools would be of most invaluable service. His Lordship adverted to the benefits arising from the conjoint operation of the City Mission and the Ragged School system. The latter, he said, had now become a necessary adjunct of the former. He had recently conversed with M. Guizot on the subject, and that gentleman had expressed to him (the noble Lord) his firm conviction, that the tranquillity of this country during the recent continental disturbances was owing to the religious feelings disseminated amongst the poorer classes of the community; to the want of which he attributed the perpetration of such enormities by the same classes in Paris and elsewhere. The noble Chairman then pointed out the contrast between the condition of the middle classes of society, and those whom the Ragged School system sought to benefit. He hoped the more fortunate classes of society would remember the advantages they had received, and consider well the position of these miserable outcasts. He hoped also they would put their hands in their pockets, and furnish the Ragged Schools with those funds which were so necessary for their support. His Lordship concluded by making an appeal to those present to become voluntary teachers in the schools in their respective districts.

The Secretary then read the Annual Report, which stated that the Brewers' Court Ragged School had been established owing to the disclosures made by the City Missionaries as to the fearful condition of the district in which it was located. The school was opened on Sunday, February 20th, 1848, since which time many scholars amongst the ragged class had been admitted, and had received the benefits arising from the instruction imparted. The total receipts for the year were £42. 16s. 2d., and the expenditure £45. 19s. 10d. The balance due to the Treasurer, therefore, was £3. 3s. 8d.; besides which, there were debts still unpaid, amounting to £22. 19s. 7d.

The Meeting was afterwards addressed by the Rev. George Goodman, Rev. W. Bevan, Rev. John Robinson, Rev. W. Arthur, Mr. J. T. M. Ware, and Mr. Thomas Gurnon.

GEORGE STREET RAGGED SCHOOL, LISSON GROVE.

THE second Annual Meeting of this School was held at the Marylebone Literary Institution, Edward Street, Portman Square, on Tuesday Evening, April 24th, 1849, Sir Wm. Baynes in the Chair. The proceedings were opened with Prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Larom.

The Chairman then proceeded to observe, that unless something were shortly done, on a very extended scale, to change the character of the great mass of the population, the situation of this country would be one of most imminent peril. He would quote the words of a very forcible writer, who said, that "unless some means be employed for this purpose, the dream of Pharaoh would be realised in other lands than Egypt, where the lean kine devoured the fat kine, and were themselves no fatter thereby." He did not hesitate to say, that the future existence and stability of this country were mainly bound up in the success of such institutions as the present. These would be found far more efficient for the preservation of order than would mere force. The time would come when a hundred Ragged School teachers would do the work better and more effectually than two thousand policemen.

The Secretary then read the Report, which was of a very encouraging nature. The school was first opened in January, 1847, and for a short time on Sunday evenings only; but no time had been lost in increasing its operations, and it was now occupied in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings of every day in the week, except Saturday. The Daily Infant School was, perhaps, one of the largest in the metropolis. There had been as many as 496 in attendance at one time; the average had been 270.

The average attendance of children at the Sunday Evening School, during the past year, had been 238. These were taught by twenty voluntary teachers. The average attendance at the Evening School was forty boys and forty girls. The Committee had disposed of 108 tenpenny Bibles, at the reduced price of sixpence each, for which reduction they were indebted to the Ragged School Union. They had also sold four hundred hymn-books, at a halfpenny each, and about one hundred reading-books, at reduced prices, besides other articles of stationery. Five boys and one girl had been provided by the Government with substantial outfits, and a free passage to Port Phillip. Frequent and liberal donations of clothing had been made. The Committee were anxious to build another room over the one at present in use, which was too small to accommodate the large number of children who were constantly seeking admission. It appeared from the financial account, that a balance of £15. 5s. was due to the Treasurer.

The Rev. Robert Walpole moved the adoption of the Report, and the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, in a most interesting speech, in which he described the present condition of the ragged children, defended the use of the Bible in Ragged Schools, and refuted the objections advanced against its use by Roman Catholics; showed the benefits which would result to society by the extension of Ragged Schools, and urged upon all the duty of supporting them on the grounds of self-interest, Christian duty, and gratitude to God.

The Resolution was seconded by the Rev. William Underwood.

The Rev. George Fisk, LL.D., moved the second Resolution. The labours of the promoters of the schools, he said, had not been in vain, and therefore they had a right to rejoice in their success; but they could not repose a trust in God for their future usefulness, without a determination to continue to make use of the proper means.

The Resolution was supported by the Rev. Mr. Larom, and carried unanimously.

Mr. William Locke, Honorary Secretary of the Ragged School Union, moved the third Resolution. He stated, among other proofs of the extension of the cause, that about one thousand voluntary teachers were now employed in the various Ragged Schools. He related, also, several instances showing the necessity of these efforts, and the benefit resulting from them, especially in an economical point of view. Of 550 persons under seventeen years of age, convicted at Clerkenwell sessions, for stealing, the cost to the country had been at least £1,200, while the amount they had stolen was only £160. At the prison of Perth the cost was from £20 to £25 each prisoner. With this was contrasted the expense of Ragged Schools, which did not amount to much more than £1 each child.

Mr. Chappell briefly seconded the Resolution.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, and to the teachers and officers of the school, having been passed, and duly acknowledged, the Doxology was sung, and the Meeting separated.

FIELD LANE RAGGED SCHOOL.

THE Annual Meeting of this School was held on Monday, April 30th, in the large School Room, Victoria Street. The Chair was occupied by the Right Hon. Lord Ashley, M.P.

The noble Chairman congratulated the Meeting on the fact of there being a flourishing Ragged School in Field Lane —in the very depths and sinks of all that used to be abominable and wretched in the metropolis. He was very glad to find that the conductors of the school were about to establish Industrial Classes, where the children might be taught that industrial occupations were not only profitable, but honourable. His Lordship mentioned that his attention was first directed to the subject by an advertisement in the papers respecting the Field Lane School, and from that simple circumstance he dated the efforts which he had been enabled to make for the advancement of these Institutions. He was struck with the term "Ragged," in the advertisement, a term which, as it admirably expressed the nature of the schools, he hoped they would not abandon.

The Report stated that, since the opening of the school, in August last, more than 1,200 children had been admitted; but the average attendance is much under that number. 586 children had been relieved by gifts of new or left-off clothing; 42 parents relieved in

cases of great distress; and 121 children had received articles of new clothing at half-price.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich, in moving the adoption of the Report, adverted to the increasing interest taken by the wealthier classes of society in the welfare of the poor and needy. He then noticed the good effected by Ragged Schools generally. He had himself visited the Schools, and had seen the very visible reformation which had commenced among the children.

The Rev. Mr. Davis said, that in Newgate there had been a considerable decrease in the number of juvenile offenders during the last year; but in some of the other prisons of the metropolis there had been an increase. The influence of mere secular education on crime was much less than had been supposed. It would be found that those addicted to crime never attended any place of worship; many of them were as well educated as other classes, but what they lacked most was good feeling and right principles.

The Meeting was afterwards addressed by Col. Douglas, (who occupied the Chair on the departure of his Lordship,) Rev. John Weir, W. Locke, Esq., Rev. James Sherman, Rev. John Branch, the Ven. Archdeacon Dealtry, and William Walker, Esq.*

LAMB AND FLAG RAGGED SCHOOLS, CLERKENWELL.

The fourth Annual Meeting of these Schools was held on Wednesday Evening, the 23rd of May, at the Parochial School Rooms, Amwell Street, Pentonville, and was very numerously and respectably attended. The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby presided. Prayer was offered up by the Bishop of St. Asaph, and a hymn sung by the children, after which the noble Chairman rose and said: The subject of Ragged Schools was no longer a new one to the public; there were now none to attack it—Ragged Schools were acknowledged to be the most appropriate means of meeting a great necessity of the age. After speaking of the nature of the evils to be removed, and the means that had been adopted as the most efficient, he called upon the Secretary to read the Report.

From the Report it appeared that the average attendance of children at the Day Schools was upwards of 200. Of those, 167 could read well in the Bible; 283 could read by single words and letters, and the remainder could not read. About 20 could write very well; 182 could write fairly on slates; about 30 understood common arithmetic. Of the girls, 46 could sew well, and 70 were learning. The number of adults on the books of the Evening School was 104, the average attendance being 60, the ages varying from 15 to 50. Most of these could read a little; about 24 in the Scriptures. Some could write, and all exhibited a great desire to improve. The success of this school, it was regretted, was much crippled for want of teachers. On the books of the Sunday Schools there were 250 scholars, the average attendance being 150. Taking the Day and Sunday Schools together, there had been on the books an attendance of 928 pupils—the average being 410. A clothing fund had been established, and £22. 13s. 2d. had been paid in by 142 depositors. To this amount the Committee had added £7. 14s. 4d., as a bonus of 4d. on each shilling deposited; making a total of £30. 10s. 6d., which had been laid out in clothing for the children. The annual expenditure was stated to be as much as £200 per annum.

The Bishop of Norwich moved the first Resolution. He was convinced that the Ragged School movement was beginning at the right end, namely, at the root of the tree; and their object was to rear a plant which might produce the finest blossoms and the purest fruit.

B. Ker, Esq., seconded the Motion, and appealed on behalf of the funds of the schools, and those who could not help the cause in a pecuniary way, might render it the most efficient of all service by becoming teachers.

The Bishop of St. Asaph moved the second Resolution. He urged the necessity of each one working individually for the reformation or improvement of some of his fellow-creatures, whose position rendered it almost impossible for them to raise themselves. He believed that Ragged Schools would produce a

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* We have much pleasure in stating, that at a Meeting held on the 6th June, the Teachers, Committee, and Friends of the School, presented Mr. Ware, their Honorary Secretary, with a purse of twelve guineas, as a token of their gratitude for his unwearied exertions on behalf of the interests of the School.

great benefit, by creating a means of intercourse between the upper and lower classes.

The Rev. H. Hughes, D.D., in an eloquent address, seconded the Resolution, which was put and carried.

George Thompson, Esq., M.P., moved the next Resolution. He said, he believed that the object for which they were met was an object on the side of which all the divinest agencies in the universe were enlisted. (Hear, hear.) He believed the ultimate object of the friends of that institution was to convert human beings from the error of their way, to save souls from death, and to hide a multitude of sins; and that object assumed in their eyes an attitude of the highest importance, as well as of the purest patriotism.

The Meeting was afterwards addressed by D. W. Wire, Esq., the Rev. John Branch, Rev. J. Weir, Rev. W. T. Wild, B.D., and Rev. C. P. Farrer, M.A.

TRINITY CHURCH RAGGED SCHOOLS, WHITEHAVEN.

The third Report of the Committee of this School is of a most encouraging character. The school is situated in a mining district, which abounds with children growing up in ignorance and crime. After describing their condition, the Report goes on to say, that "the average attendance at the school on Sundays, during the past two years, has been 120; the number present having been sometimes as low as 70, and at other times as high as 160. The children assemble at half-past nine o'clock in the morning, and are taught till half-past ten; and as most of them would object, on account of their want of decent clothing, to appear at church, they are not taken there to public worship, but the services of the Church of England are celebrated in the school-room, such of the pupils as can read repeating the responses. Prayers concluded, a plain and simple lecture, adapted to the understandings of the congregation, is read by the superintending teacher; and the school is then dismissed till two o'clock, when the scholars re-assemble, and remain together, receiving instruction, till four in the afternoon.

In connection with this Sunday School there has been established, since the publication of the last Report, an Evening School, which is kept open on three nights in every week—Monday, Tuesday, and Friday—from seven till nine o'clock. This is conducted by the teachers of Trinity Church School and their friends, and the average attendance on the evenings mentioned is 70 children. The instruction is free of charge, except with respect to one halfpenny contributed by each family, to defray the expense of gas for lighting the room. The advantages of the Evening School are limited to those who attend the Sunday School. The instruction imparted consists of reading, writing, and arithmetic; and in addition thereto, the girls, during one evening in each week, are taught to sew, the articles made being distributed among them as rewards for diligence and good conduct.

SCHOOL FOR THE DESTITUTE, PLYMOUTH.

This School was opened on the 10th of May, 1847. Although the number of children in attendance is limited, yet, like similar efforts when rightly conducted, it promises to be of great service to the neighbourhood. The children have chiefly been gathered from the streets, or sent by the town missionaries —all of the right class, ignorant, rude, and dirty. The benefit of the instruction is shown by a marked improvement in their character and appearance—cleanliness, order, and attention. The Week Evening School was re-opened in October last, with an attendance of from 40 to 50. Although the boys when they entered manifested rudeness and impatience of control, yet there are pleasing indications of improvement to be seen amongst them. We give the following as an instance of the benefits that often accrue to the parents by means of the children:—A boy who attends the Day School came with his father and mother to the Sabbath Evening Bible Class. On being asked if his father felt interested on that occasion, he said, "My father cannot read, and he wants to hear about Jesus Christ; he gets drunk, but he does not know better, yet I and my mother read to him."